

**ABSTRACT**

A compact locking block mechanism for a semiautomatic pistol includes transverse ribs on the sides of the locking block, which engage mating slots in the polymeric frame of the pistol and secure the block to the frame. Additionally, the locking block includes a pair of forward guide rails, which are normally separate from the locking block. The guide rails and transverse ribs are separated by a space or discontinuity on the side wall of the locking block. The guide rails include chamfered front and rear edge surfaces and arcuate, convex bottom surfaces. The above-mentioned features function to reduce stress on the polymeric frame and locking block caused by the forcible reciprocating longitudinal movement of the slide upon discharge of the pistol.